

Parish of St. Theresa of Lisieux Stansted

The Little Flower Messenger

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT- YEAR B

17th December 2023

The Presbytery, High Lane, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8LQ ☎ 01279 814 349

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Mass book (P.87)

1st Reading:

2nd Reading:

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: John 1: 6-8,19-28

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Psalms Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54 **My soul rejoices in my God.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Alma Redemptoris Mater- with humility and faith, the Church venerates Our Lady by praying this Prayer in the Advent and Christmas Seasons. **Let us pray the same prayer too.**

**O loving Mother of our Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,
Hasten to aid thy fallen people who strive to rise once more.
Thou who brought forth thy holy Creator, all creation wondering,
Yet you remained a virgin after as before, You, who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us, poor sinners. Amen.**

Up through the day before Christmas Eve:

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. **R.** And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Christmas Eve:

V. Thou gavest birth without loss of thy virginity: **R.** Intercede for us, O holy Mother of God.

Let us pray: O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary has offered unto the human race the rewards of eternal salvation, grant, we beseech thee, that we may know the effects of her intercession, through whom we have deserved to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Amen.

Alma Redemptoris Mater (original text): *Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti, Surgere qui curat populo: tu quae genuisti, Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem, Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere. Amen.*

Christ was born to save us sinners: Advent Confessions available during Adoration on Fridays at 5.30 pm-7.30 pm, next Saturday at 10 am and every Saturday at 5pm. Everyone is invited. Let us listen to the Spirit God calling us to prepare for the birth of Jesus within us through Confession.

Devotion to Our Lady: Advent and Christmas Seasons provide us a gracious opportunity to strengthen our devotion to Our Lady, the Mother of God. Without the critical role of Our Lady,



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that is her fiat and obedience to God's divine will, there would be no Christmas. Let us pray the Rosary as well as other prayers to Our Lady. Many believers and saints have taught us the beauty and the humility of the prayers to Our Lady. Saint Pope John Paul II quite literally learned from St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort and took up his Papal Motto, *Totus Tuus*, from his writings:

My motto; 'Totus Tuus' is inspired by the teaching of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort. These two words express total belonging to Jesus through Mary: 'Tuus totus ego sum, et omnia mea tua sunt,' St Louis Marie wrote, and he translates his words: 'I am all yours, and all that I have is yours, O most loving Jesus, through Mary, your most holy Mother. This Saint's teaching has had a profound influence on the Marian devotion of many of the faithful and on my own life. It is a lived teaching of outstanding ascetic and mystical depth, expressed in a lively and passionate style that makes frequent use of images and symbols. All our perfection consists in being conformed, united and consecrated to Jesus Christ; and therefore, the most perfect of all devotions is, without any doubt, that which most perfectly conforms, unites and consecrates us to Jesus Christ. Now, Mary being the most conformed of all creatures to Jesus Christ, it follows that, of all devotions, that which most consecrates and conforms the soul to Our Lord is devotion to his holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more it is consecrated to Jesus. When we praise her, love her, honour her or give anything to her, it is God who is praised, God who is loved, God who is glorified, and it is to God that we give, through Mary and in Mary (Saint Pope John Paul II on the Treatise on True Devotion).

St. John Eudes who wrote the Mass/Liturgy of the Sacred Heart says this: *You must never separate what God has so perfectly united. So closely are Jesus and Mary bound up with each other that whoever beholds Jesus sees Mary; whoever loves Jesus, loves Mary; whoever has devotion to Jesus, has devotion to Mary.*

Something extra during the Advent Season: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and Mass every Friday during Advent. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will start at 5.30 pm. The Holy Rosary will be said twice at 6.00 pm and at 7.00 pm and Holy Mass at 7.30 pm. If we are taken up or distracted by the hustle and bustle of daily life, Advent Season can easily pass by without doing the required Spiritual Preparation before Christmas. Everyone is invited to do something extra during the Advent Season. The Church appeals to everyone to make time for a good spiritual preparation before Christmas.

Christmas Flower Second Collection: Please give your donations either this Sunday or next Sunday. Thank you for your help and donations towards Christmas Decorations. The box is located in the entrance hall (the old intentions box) for the donations.

Tea and Coffee: There will be no teas/coffee after Mass on Sunday 24th December, we shall recommence them again on Sunday 7th January. Should you wish to help and be added to the rota please contact Suzanne at 07732 627 382 or via email suzanne.shutes@btinternet.com.

Hall Fund: I thank you immensely for the donations I have received for the Hall Fund: So far £1750 has been received but we still need much more. Please support me in this effort and your donations will be gratefully received and very much appreciated. Please note that donations by cheque are payable to: **Catholic Church Stansted St Therasas**. Thank you.

We pray for the Sick and all who may need our prayers at this time especially Stephen Craston, Rachel Taylor and Fr Francis Coveney. Please let me know if you would like your name to be included here.

Mass Intentions: As a personal touch with you and getting to know you individually, it may be helpful if you personally give me your Mass intentions. You can speak with me about this before or after Mass. Thank you so much for your Mass intentions and your offerings.

Offertory:

Date	Gift Aid	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
10/12/2023	£170.00	£ 244.35	£ 420.04	£834.39

Thank you very much for your generous financial support for our parish and the special collections.



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A Thank-You Message from Fr. Clement: I was very touched to receive Christmas cards and gifts from some parishioners. Please remember I do not expect anything from you especially since I have only recently arrived in the parish. I am however very grateful for the money, cards, and gifts I have received from you. Your gift is very much appreciated. With my little prayers, I wish you together with your relatives and friends God's Christmas Graces and Blessings. Please remember me in your prayers. Thank you for your help and support.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Two young parishioners have asked if we could help prepare them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Are there any more young people who would like to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Please let me know as soon as possible so that all concerned may be consulted.

Theological Virtues (Catechism ccc 1812-1826): Through baptism and other Sacraments, God has infused into our souls the sanctifying grace enabling us to share in God's divine life. This sanctifying grace is expressed in three theological virtues: Hope, Faith and Charity.

Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our true happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that which Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God".

Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God.

Everyone is invited to the Celebration of the holy Mass this week as per the schedule here below:

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)

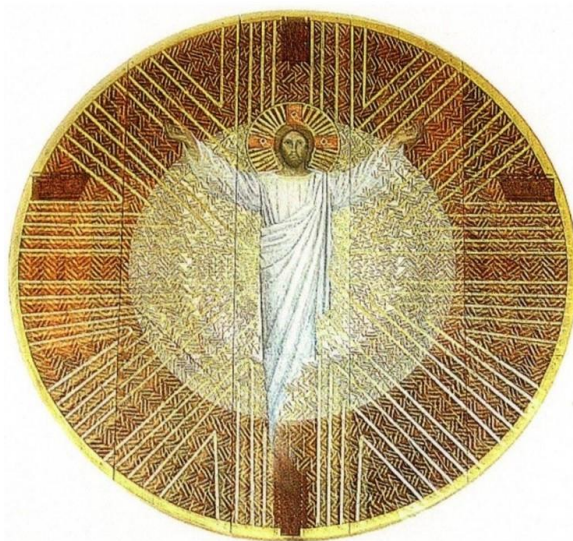
Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 16 th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Special Intentions (By Rosemary S)
Sunday Vigil Mass	Confessions: 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	James McCreanor R.I.P. (By Sheila W.)
Sunday 17 th December <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of the Joy family Mick & Jim Cassidy R.I.P. (by Eilish C)
Wednesday 20 th December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 12:30 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	The sick, housebound and our dear ones who are struggling
Thursday 21 st December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 10.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Prayers and Intentions of Coryn Nixon
Friday 22 nd December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i> Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 5.30 pm (Rosary and Confessions) Mass: 7.30pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	Prayers and intentions of Chantal Armstrong Intentions and prayers of the people of the Parish



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B (The Year of the Gospel of Mark)

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention
Saturday 23 rd December <i>Advent Feria</i>	Mass: 9.00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Special Intentions (By Rosemary S)
Sunday Vigil Mass	Confessions: 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm <i>Livestreamed</i>	For Michael Bambridge (Jeanne)
Sunday 24 th December <i>Expectant Mothers</i>	Mass: 8:30 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	Mrs Ramona Sebastiana Nazareth R.I.P
	Mass: 10:00 am <i>Livestreamed</i>	The intentions and prayers of the people of the parish
NATIVITY OF THE LORD		
Sunday 24 th December <i>Vigil Mass of Christmas</i>	Children's Mass: 4:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Protection of our children and intentions of our families
<i>Christmas Mass During the</i> <i>Night</i>	Mass: 8:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	The intentions of Parishioners and Fr. Clement's prayers
<i>Midnight Mass</i>	Mass: 11:30 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	The prayers and intentions of all in the Lawson family (by Sylvia Lawson)
Monday 25 th December <i>Mass of the Dawn</i>	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Intentions of the Joy family
<i>Mass of the Day</i>	Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Prayers and intentions of the people of the parish



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